

Message Text

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14

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EUR/CE - MR. FLATIN (INFO)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 186581

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:CVIS, UR, IS, SREF, PFOR

SUBJECT:SOVIET EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL AND US

REF: TEL AVIV 7179

VIENNA, ROME AND NAPLES FOR INS

1. DEPARTMENT QUERIED HIAS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CONCERNING
PRESS REPORTS THAT HIAS WILL NO LONGER EXTEND HELP TO JEWISH
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EMIGRANTS FROM USSR SEEKING ASSISTANCE TO IMMIGRATE TO

WESTERN COUNTRY AFTER FIRST COMING TO ISRAEL.

2. HIAS SAID THERE WAS NO INTENTION TO COMPLETELY ELIMINATE ITS ASSISTANCE TO THIS CATEGORY OF PEOPLE. THE PRESS REPORT DID NOT CORRECTLY SET FORTH THE HIAS POSITION. THE INTENT WAS TO GET THE JEWISH AGENCY TO STRENGTHEN COUNSELING IN VIENNA AND ISRAEL TO LIMIT THE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE LEAVING ISRAEL TO GO TO ROME FOR MIGRATION PURPOSES AND TO CATCH IN VIENNA THOSE WHO INTENDED TO MIGRATE TO OTHER COUNTRIES. HIAS ASSISTANCE WILL CONTINUE TO BE GIVEN TO THOSE RUSSIAN JEWS REFERRED TO ITS ROME OFFICE BY THE JEWISH AGENCY.

3. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE CLARIFICATION PREPARED BY HIAS:

"STATEMENT FOR JTA:

IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES STIMULATED BY NEWS REPORTS FROM ISRAEL, CARL GLICK, PRESIDENT OF UNITED HIAS SERVICE, CONFIRMED THAT OFFICERS OF HIAS AND OTHERS RECENTLY MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE JEWISH AGENCY TO DISCUSS MATTERS OF COMMON CONCERN RELATING TO RUSSIAN IMMIGRANTS WHO WISH TO LEAVE ISRAEL, PARTICULARLY AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN PROVIDED WITH JOBS AND HOUSING.

TO DATE, THE SITUATION HAS BEEN OF LIMITED CONCERN. ALMOST 70,000 RUSSIANS HAVE COME TO ISRAEL IN RECENT YEARS AND LESS THAN 500 HAVE COME FROM ISRAEL AND APPLIED TO HIAS IN ROME FOR ASSISTANCE TO IMMIGRATE TO THE UNITED STATES, CANADA AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES. ALL THESE RUSSIAN IMMIGRANTS WHO RECEIVED HIAS ASSISTANCE HAD BEEN CLEARED AND REFERRED TO HIAS BY THE JEWISH AGENCY. THE FACT THAT LESS THAN ONE PERCENT OF THE USSR JEWS CAME TO ROME FROM ISRAEL IS A GREAT TRIBUTE TO ISRAEL, ITS PEOPLE INVOLVED WITH ABSORPTION AND THE RUSSIAN IMMIGRANTS IN ISRAEL.

AFTER A FULL DISCUSSION, IT WAS AGREED THAT TO KEEP "OUT-MIGRATION" AT MINIMAL LEVELS, THE JEWISH AGENCY WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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PROVIDE INTENSIVE COUNSELLING AND GUIDANCE FOR RUSSIAN IMMIGRANTS IN VIENNA AND ISRAEL. HIAS, AS AN INDEPENDENT AMERICAN MIGRATION AGENCY, WOULD CONTINUE TO ASSIST JEWISH REFUGEES IN CONNECTION WITH FAMILY REUNION AND COMPASSIONATE SITUATIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

RUSSIAN JEWS FROM ISRAEL WHO SEEK HIAS ASSISTANCE IN ROME WILL STILL REQUIRE CLEARANCE AND REFERRAL BY THE JEWISH AGENCY. AT THE SAME TIME, IN THE INTEREST OF ALL

CONCERNED, THE HIAS STAFF IN ROME HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CAREFULLY SCRUTINIZE THE NEEDS AND STATUS OF ALL APPLICANTS." RUSH

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